National Endowment for the Arts

2008 Guide

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation
deserves great art.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

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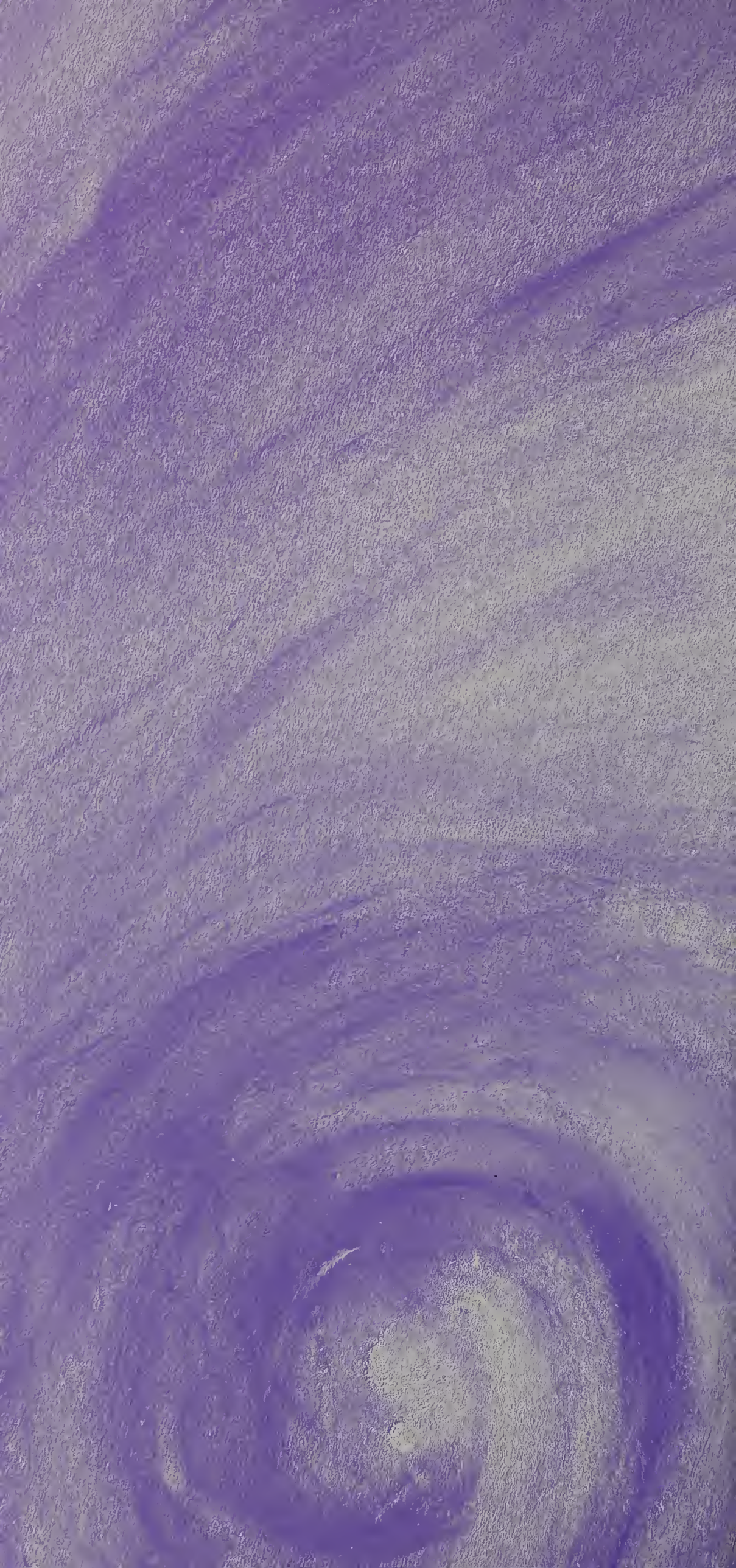


Photo by Vance Jacobs

Chairman's Message

In June 2007, I had the good fortune to deliver the commencement address to my alma mater, Stanford University. One of the main themes of the address was that we live in a culture that barely acknowledges and rarely celebrates the arts or artists. A sad statement, but one I believe to be true. And yet our national culture is one of our greatest assets. Our culture helps define us, shows us what we value, how we live, and who we are. Many Americans, however, do not get a chance to experience the richness of the arts. That is where the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) comes in.

During the past five years, the NEA has been expanding its reach into every community in the nation, bringing the best of the arts into classrooms, libraries, performing arts centers, recreational centers, and military bases, serving millions of Americans. Through our national initiatives, such as Shakespeare in American Communities, Poetry Out Loud, The Big Read, and American Masterpieces, our core grants, and our funding of state arts agencies and regional arts organizations, we provide artistic and educational programs to communities throughout the country and on every level—from the smallest town to the biggest city, from the top of the country in Barrow, Alaska, to the tip of the bottom in the Florida Keys.

The NEA is now bringing the arts to more people than ever before. And more often than not, people who previously had limited exposure to the arts. What does this mean for the United States? It means more Americans who are engaged in their communities, it means more children experiencing the transformative power of art and using their imaginations, it means more workers using innovation and ingenuity in the workplace.

This guide presents an overview of NEA programs. By making arts and arts education programs available to more people in more places, the NEA truly enriches the civic life of the nation. Because a great nation deserves great art.

Dana Gioia
Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

ABOUT US

The National Endowment for the Arts, established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency, is the official arts organization of the United States government. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the country, the NEA is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Through its grants and programs, the NEA brings great art to all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

The NEA awards more than $100 million annually, investing in every state. The Arts Endowment has played a substantial role in the development of folk arts, dance, theater, literature, opera, and other arts that Americans now enjoy.

Since its establishment, the NEA has awarded more than 126,000 grants, including early support for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design competition, the Sundance Film Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, PBS's *Great Performances* series, and the American Film Institute. For more than four decades, the Arts Endowment has encouraged creativity through support of performances, exhibitions, festivals, artist residencies, and other arts projects throughout the country.

The Nancy Hanks Center at the Old Post Office Building in Washington, DC—home to the National Endowment for the Arts.

Visiting chamber musicians performing with Alaskan mountains in the background during the Sitka Summer Music Festival, supported by an NEA Access to Artistic Excellence grant.
Photo courtesy Sitka Summer Music Festival

National Endowment for the Arts Funding

The National Endowment for the Arts awards matching grants to nonprofit organizations. In addition, it awards non-matching individual fellowships in literature and honorary fellowships in jazz and the folk and traditional arts. Forty percent of the Arts Endowment's funds go to the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and the six regional arts organizations in support of arts projects in thousands of communities across the country.

All applications to the Arts Endowment are reviewed on the basis of artistic excellence and artistic merit. Applications generally receive three levels of review. First, they are reviewed by independent, national panels of artists and other arts experts. Panels make recommendations that are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts.

The National Council on the Arts, the Arts Endowment's advisory body, comprises nationally and internationally renowned artists, distinguished scholars, and arts patrons appointed by the President, and members of Congress. The Council reviews and makes recommendations on the applications. Those recommendations for funding are sent to the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Chairman reviews those applications and makes the final decision on all grant awards.

The following information provides an overview of our funding categories and other activities. Deadlines for funding opportunities are found in the back of this guide. For details and our application guidelines, please visit our Web site at **www.arts.gov.**

Rufino Tamayo's *Niña bonita* (Pretty Girl), 1937, was part of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's exhibition *Tamayo: A Modern Icon Reinterpreted*, supported by an NEA Access to Artistic Excellence grant in 2006.
Photo courtesy of Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Private Collection, © Herederos de Rufino Tamayo

GRANTS FOR ARTS PROJECTS

Grants for Arts Projects support exemplary projects in dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, local arts agencies, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting (including multidisciplinary art forms), theater, and visual arts.

Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations; units of state or local government; and federally recognized tribal communities or tribes may apply. Applicants may be arts organizations, local arts agencies, arts service organizations, local education agencies (school districts), and other organizations that can help advance the goals of the Arts Endowment.

To be eligible, an applicant organization must:

- Be nonprofit, tax-exempt.
- Have a three-year history of programming.
- Meet reporting requirements on any previous Arts Endowment awards.

Generally, an organization is limited to one application per year under Grants for Arts Projects. Depending on the particular category, limited exceptions may exist for consortium projects and parent organizations such as universities or cultural complexes that apply on behalf of separately identifiable and independent components.

Assistance is not available for general operating or seasonal support; the creation of new organizations; the construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities; or directly for individual elementary or secondary schools—charter, private, or public.

The Grants for Arts Projects guidelines outline support that is available in the following categories:

Access to Artistic Excellence

This category encourages and supports artistic creativity, preserves our diverse cultural heritage, and makes the arts more widely available in communities throughout the country. Typical projects include the commissioning and development of new work, the presentation of performances or exhibitions at home or on tour, the documentation and preservation of significant art works or cultural traditions, the publication and dissemination of work important to the field, and the professional training of artists. The Arts Endowment is particularly interested in projects that reach and involve new audiences.

Grants generally range from $5,000 to $100,000.

Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants

These grants enable organizations, particularly those that are small or mid-sized, to extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations—those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. An expedited application review allows applicants to learn whether they have been recommended for a grant more quickly than in the Arts Endowment's other categories.

In this category the focus is on simple, straightforward local projects that involve experienced professional artists and arts professionals. Projects may include festivals, exhibits, readings, performances, screenings, or broadcasts that feature guest artists in community settings; professionally directed public arts projects such as murals, sculptures, or environmental art; cultural district revitalization; cultural tourism; and planning for the redesign of existing spaces for cultural activities.

All grants are for $10,000.

The On Your Feet! dance festival in Western New York, featuring artists such as Yasser Darwish performing a Sufi spinning dance, was supported by an NEA Challenge America grant.
Photo by Tom Rivers

North Dakota's Trollwood Performing Arts School production of *Fiddler on the Roof* was supported by an NEA Learning in the Arts grant in 2007.
Photo by David Samson

Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth

This category funds projects that help children and youth acquire knowledge and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engage students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art. They may take place in school-based or community-based settings. The focus is on children and youth in the general age range of five through 18 years old.

All projects must include the following components: 1) the opportunity for students and their teachers to experience exemplary works of art, in live form wherever possible; 2) study of the art experienced, including the acquisition of skills for practicing the art form where appropriate; 3) the performance/making of art within the discipline(s) studied; and 4) assessment of student learning according to national or state arts education standards.

Grants generally range from $5,000 to $100,000.

LITERATURE FELLOWSHIPS

Through NEA Literature Fellowships awarded to published creative writers and translators of exceptional talent, the Arts Endowment advances its goal of encouraging and supporting artistic excellence and preserving our cultural heritage. NEA Literature Fellowships in creative writing enable recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. These non-matching grants are for $25,000. This program operates on a two-year cycle with fellowships in prose available one year and fellowships in poetry available the next.

NEA Literature Fellowship applications for creative writing are evaluated through a process of anonymous manuscript review under the sole criteria of artistic excellence and merit. Panelists do not know the identities of the writers, their publishing histories, academic achievements, or previous awards.

NEA Literature Fellowships also are given for translation projects, enabling recipients to translate works of prose, poetry, or drama from other languages into English. The art of literary translation has made available to the American public some of the most important writing in the world, from Homer to Gabriel García Márquez. Non-matching grants are awarded depending upon the artistic excellence and merit of the project, in the amounts of $10,000 or $20,000.

The NEA Literature Fellowships are the only competitive, non-nominated awards that the Arts Endowment gives to individual artists.

LIFETIME HONORS

On behalf of the American people, the federal government recognizes outstanding achievement in the arts through the National Medal of Arts, a Presidential award; NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships; and NEA National Heritage Fellowships. Information on nominating candidates for these awards can be found on the NEA Web site at **www.arts.gov.**

National Medal of Arts

The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the federal government. It is awarded by the President of the United States to individuals or groups who are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States.

Since 1985, more than 200 extraordinary patrons and artists in the fields of visual, performing, and literary arts have been honored. With this medal, the President recognizes the wealth and depth of creative expression of America's artists. Annually,

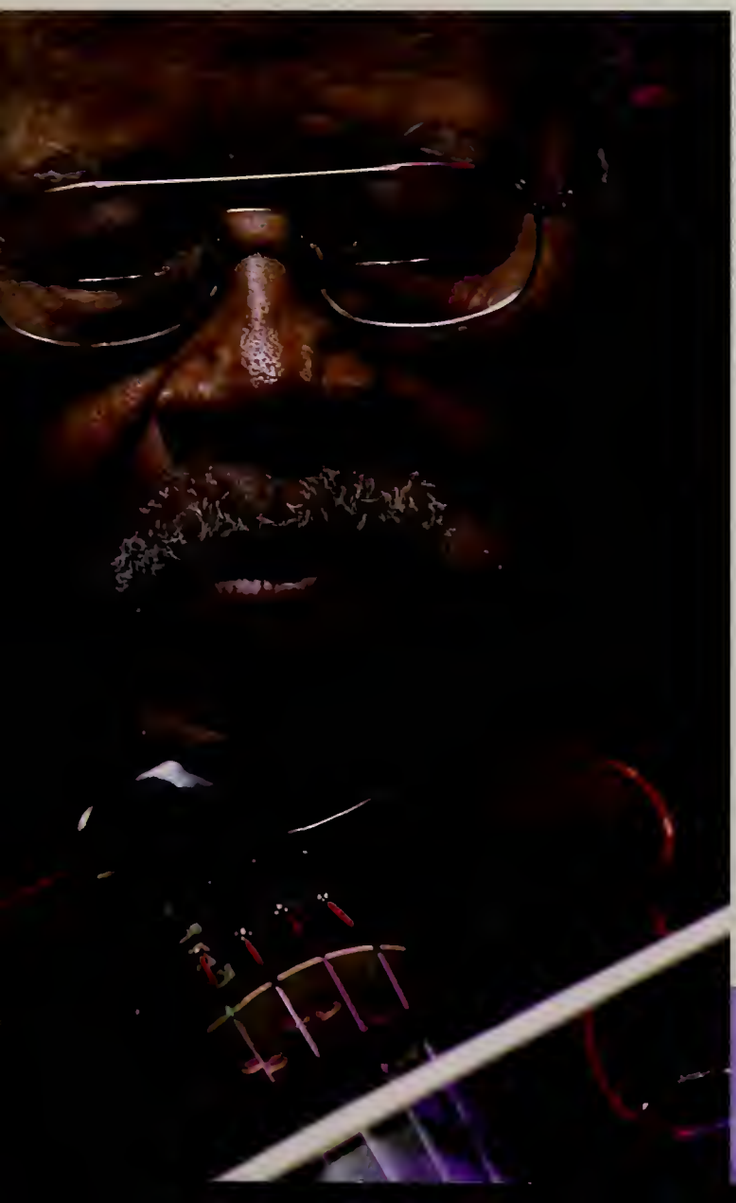
a vast number of nominations are submitted from citizens across the country for consideration by the National Council on the Arts, which in turn submits its recommendations to the White House.

NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships

NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships are the highest honors that our government bestows upon jazz musicians. These fellowships are given in recognition that this magnificent art form, so profoundly based in the nation's culture, is one of America's greatest gifts to the world. Non-matching fellowships of $25,000 each are awarded annually on the basis of nominations. The Arts Endowment honors a wide range of styles with awards given in various categories. In addition, the A. B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy is given to an individual who has made a major contribution to the appreciation, knowledge, and advancement of jazz, such as a writer, patron, or presenter.

NEA National Heritage Fellowships

NEA National Heritage Fellowships recognize the recipients' artistic excellence and accomplishments, and support their continuing contributions to America's folk and traditional arts. As part of its efforts to honor and preserve our nation's diverse cultural heritage, the National Endowment for the Arts annually awards non-matching fellowships of $25,000 each on the basis of nominations. In addition, the Bess Lomax Hawes NEA National Heritage Award is presented to an individual who has made a major contribution to the excellence, vitality, and public appreciation of the folk and traditional arts through teaching, collecting, advocacy, or preservation work.



2007 NEA National Heritage Fellow Joe Thompson performs during the awards ceremony.
Photo by Michael Stewart

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

National Initiatives are model programs of indisputable artistic merit and broad national reach. Through these initiatives, the American people will have the opportunity to celebrate American creativity and experience the best of its culture.

Portland Center Stage's production of *West Side Story* was part of the American Masterpieces: Musical Theater initiative. Photo by Owen Carey

American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius consists of three components—touring, local presentations, and arts education. Programs presenting acknowledged masterpieces selected from a wide variety of art forms will tour to large and small communities across the country.

Local presentations will be supported so that institutions throughout the country can create programs consistent with the overall theme. Arts education will make up a substantial portion of the initiative by bringing an unprecedented number of students to the exhibitions, presentations, and performances, and by creating substantial and engaging in-school programs.

Thus far, grants have been awarded in choral music, dance, musical theater, and visual arts—and in 2008 will include chamber music and presenting—for touring performances, presentations, and exhibitions. More information can be found on the NEA Web site **www.arts.gov.**

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents the Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. The Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

Support for the Big Read is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Big Read in the Pacific Northwest is also supported, in part, by a grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

The Big Read provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. This initiative comprises innovative reading programs in selected communities; expansive outreach and publicity campaigns, including television, radio, and print publicity; compelling resources for discussing outstanding literature; and an extensive Web site offering comprehensive information on the authors and their works. By 2009, approximately 400 communities in the U.S. will have hosted a Big Read since the program's 2007 national launch.

For 2008, each community will read one of 22 classic novels. Four communities, from January-June 2008, will take part in the U.S. component of Big Read Russia, hosting programs celebrating Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. Additional cross-cultural Big Reads with Egypt and Mexico are also expected to launch in 2008. Additionally, NEA Literature Director David Kipen is visiting many of the communities holding events and writing about them on the Big Read Blog (**www.arts.gov/bigreadblog/**).

In September 2007, the NEA partnered with XM Satellite Radio to launch a new radio series, *The Big Read on XM*, featuring the complete audio version of Big Read books, as well as commentary and analysis. Building on the reading program's success, the new series is broadcast daily weekdays on Sonic Theater (XM Channel 163), bringing the Big Read to XM's more than 8.2 million subscribers nationwide. The September 10 premiere of *The Big Read on XM* featured interviews with NEA Chairman Dana Gioia and Mrs. Laura Bush, honorary chair of the Big Read, launching the series with Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

For more information, or to find out how your organization can submit a proposal to join the Big Read, please visit **www.neabigread.org.**

The Arts Endowment is expanding the reach of its **NEA Jazz Masters** program by broadening public recognition of the NEA Jazz Masters, enhancing the public's knowledge of jazz, and placing a brighter spotlight on these great musicians and their life's work.

A new arts education component was created in partnership with Jazz at Lincoln Center and with support from the Verizon Foundation, **NEA Jazz in the Schools.** This educational resource for high school teachers of social studies, U.S. history, and music, includes a five-unit, Web-based curriculum and DVD toolkit that explores jazz as an indigenous American art form and as a means to understand U.S. history (more information can be found at **www.neajazzintheschools.org**). More than six million students have learned about jazz from the toolkit and online curriculum. Broadcast programming was created as part of the

NEA Jazz Master Nancy Wilson performs at the 2007 NEA Jazz Masters awards ceremony.
Photo by Tom Pich

2007 Poetry Out Loud national champion Amanda Fernandez, a senior at Duke Ellington School for the Arts in Washington, DC.
Photo by James Kegley

NEA Jazz Masters program, such as *Jazz Moments*, radio shorts on NEA Jazz Masters for broadcast on satellite radio XM. Since 2005, the Arts Endowment has partnered with *Legends of Jazz*, a weekly television series dedicated to legendary jazz artists and often highlighting NEA Jazz Masters. To find out more about these components, visit **www.neajazzmasters.org.**

NEA Arts Journalism Institutes

In June 2004, the NEA established three **NEA Arts Journalism Institutes** to address a chronic problem throughout the country: the lack of quality arts criticism in the media. The institutes' focus is on improving arts criticism in classical music, opera, theater, and dance.

The institutes are designed for journalists who cover the arts for print and broadcast outlets located mostly outside the country's largest media markets, where professional development opportunities are limited. Institutes for dance critics will be hosted by the American Dance Festival (ADF) at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina; for classical music and opera critics at Columbia University in New York City; and for theater and musical theater critics at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Each Institute will offer a two- or three-week program each year for up to 30 attendees and cover the participants' expenses. This initiative will help communities across the country benefit from substantially enhanced writing about the arts. For more information, visit **www.arts.gov.**

OPERATION HOMECOMING

In 2008, **Operation Homecoming,** an NEA national initiative started in 2004, will support approximately 25 writing workshops and related literary programming for U.S. troops, veterans, and their families, enabling them to write about their wartime experiences. The workshops will take place at veterans and Department of Defense health facilities and affiliated centers across the country. Participants will be able to access online resources and will receive materials such as an educational guide featuring distinguished wartime writing by veterans and civilians. Where possible, local literary organizations will take part in programming. Operation Homecoming is presented in coordination with the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Southern Arts Federation. Operation Homecoming is made possible by The Boeing Company. For more information, visit **www.operationhomecoming.org.**

POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

Presented in partnership with the Poetry Foundation and the state arts agencies, **Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest** is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition in all 50 states, Washington, DC, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure. Beginning at the high school

classroom level, winners will advance to the school-wide competition, then to the state finals, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, DC.

Each winner at the state level will receive $200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to compete for the national championship. The state winner's school will receive a $500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. A runner-up in each state will receive $100, with $200 for his or her school library. A total of $50,000 in scholarships and school stipends will be awarded at the National Finals.

Any high school wishing to participate should contact its states arts agency for more information on the program. Visit **www.poetryoutloud.org** for a list of contacts. The Web site also features standards-based educational materials, an online anthology of 500 poems, as well as tips on hosting a school contest.

Shakespeare in American Communities was the first NEA National Initiative, launched in 2003, and has since become the largest tour of Shakespeare in American history. It began as a nationwide tour of seven professional theater companies, including performances at 18 military bases through an unprecedented partnership with the Department of Defense. The next phase of the initiative, **Shakespeare for a New Generation**, began in 2004 and focuses on bringing Shakespeare to the next generation of Americans.

Shakespeare for a New Generation provides professional Shakespeare performances and educational programs to high school and middle school students. In the first four years of Shakespeare for a New Generation, 128 grants have been awarded to theater companies, resulting in approximately 3,000 performances seen by more than 800,000 students and their families. The initiative has reached more than 1,700 communities in all 50 states, enabling students from more than 3,000 schools to see a professional production of Shakespeare. Teachers are benefiting from a free multimedia educational toolkit created by the Arts Endowment; more than 50,000 copies have been distributed, benefiting more than 20 million students. More information can be found at **www.shakespearein americancommunties.org.**

Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, part of NEA's Shakespeare for a New Generation initiative.
Photo by T. Charles Erickson

LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

The Arts Endowment takes an active role in developing and carrying out hallmark projects of national significance in the arts. The following are examples of initiatives the NEA undertakes:

The Arts on Radio and Television supports projects for radio and television arts programs that are intended for national broadcast. Through this category the National Endowment for the Arts seeks to make the excellence and diversity of the arts widely available to the American public. Grants generally range from $10,000 to $200,000.

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is an Arts Endowment leadership initiative established in 1986 that provides an opportunity for mayors and design professionals to work together to address civic design and development issues related to their respective cities. The success of the Mayors' Institute led to the creation in 2004 of the **Governors' Institute on Regional Design.** This initiative brings governors and design professionals together to discuss regional design issues, such as suburban sprawl created by regional urban growth.

The Open World Cultural Leaders Program is an initiative supported by a partnership between the NEA and the Open World Leadership Center, an independent legislative branch agency located at the Library of Congress. The initiative provides in-depth residency activities for cultural representatives from Russia, including jazz musicians and educators, writers, and folk and traditional artists. Past residencies have taken place at the Brubeck Institute in Stockton, California, the Lionel Hampton Center in Moscow, Idaho, the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, and the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

Russian choreographer Ivan Estegneev from Kostroma (standing) at the American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina, as part of the Open World Cultural Leaders Program.
Photo by Gregory Georges, ADF 2007

NEA PARTNERS

Chuchumbé, a Mexican *son jarocho* ensemble, performs in Flint, Michigan, as part of the Midwest World Fest produced by regional arts organization Arts Midwest with support from the NEA. Photo courtesy of Arts Midwest

State & Regional

In partnership with the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and six regional arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts provides federal support for projects that benefit local communities. The Partnership Agreements for the state arts agencies provide funds to address priorities identified at the state level as well as funds for various components that target specific Arts Endowment objectives. The regional arts organizations, each representing a geographic grouping of states, assist the Arts Endowment in distributing funds and programs nationally through touring and other activities responsive to the needs of the region.

Federal Partnerships

The NEA works with more than 20 other federal agencies on projects that provide opportunities for thousands of Americans to experience quality arts programming throughout the country. These joint projects help to expand the reach and impact of federal arts dollars, and provide a national model for the types of partnerships the NEA encourages at the state and local levels. These partnerships include initiatives with agencies such as the Department of Education and the Department of Defense.

International

The National Endowment for the Arts collaborates with other funders to bring the benefits of international exchange to arts organizations, artists, and audiences nationwide. The Arts Endowment's support of international activities showcases U.S. arts abroad and broadens the scope of experience of American artists. International partnerships help increase worldwide recognition of the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts of the United States, and help American artists and arts organizations develop international ties that strengthen the many art forms of the United States.

Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer, U.S. Representative Todd Tiahrt (Kansas), and NEA Chairman Dana Gioia at the Wichita Art Museum during a 2007 NEA grants workshop in Wichita, Kansas.
Photo by Kirk Eck

Other Arts Endowment Activities

The Office for AccessAbility was established in 1976 as the advocacy and technical assistance arm of the Arts Endowment for people with disabilities, older Americans, veterans, and people living in institutions. The office works in myriad ways to assist the Arts Endowment and its grantees in making arts programs more available to underserved segments of our citizenry.

Through the ***Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act of 1975*** (20 U.S.C. 971), which is administered by the Arts Endowment, the agency provides insurance coverage for objects in international exhibitions. To date, the program has indemnified 800 exhibitions, saving the organizers $185 million in insurance premiums. The authorized limit for indemnified exhibitions at any one time is $10 billion under the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program.

Since 2002, the National Endowment for the Arts has been conducting **grant workshops** across the country to provide valuable guidance on how local arts organizations can improve their chances of winning a competitive grant from the NEA. The workshops are done in cooperation with Members of Congress, who act as host, and with organizational help from state arts agencies. The goal of the workshops is to extend federal support of the arts into smaller communities and more rural areas that might not normally apply for NEA grants.

DEADLINES

NOTE: Grants.gov is required for organizations applying to the NEA. Before you can apply, you must be registered with grants.gov. Learn more about grants.gov by visiting our Web site at ***www.arts.gov*** *and register now.*

Literature Fellowships

Creative Writing Fellowships

Application Deadline: March 3, 2008

Earliest Project Start Date:
January 1, 2009

Translation Projects

Applications through grants.gov required

Application Deadline:
January 7, 2008

Earliest Project Start Date:
November 1, 2008

For information, contact the Literature staff at *davisg@arts.gov* or 202/682-5034.

Lifetime Honors

National Medal of Arts

Nomination Deadline:
March 17, 2008

Only online nominations accepted

For information, contact the staff at 202/682-5434.

NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships

Nomination Deadline:
October 10, 2008

For information, contact the Music staff at *vonschuttenbach@arts.gov* or 202/682-5711.

NEA National Heritage Fellowships

Nomination Deadline:
October 1, 2008

For information, contact the Folk & Traditional Arts staff at *schielec@arts.gov* or 202/682-5587.

Leadership Initiatives

The Arts on Radio and Television

Application Deadline:
September 5, 2008

Earliest Project Start Date:
May 1, 2009

For information, contact the Media Arts staff at *welshl@arts.gov* or 202/682-5738.

Grants for Arts Projects

Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants

Application Deadline:
June 2, 2008

Earliest Project Start Date:
January 1, 2009

For information, contact the staff at *fasttrack@arts.gov* or 202/682-5700.

Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth

Application Deadline: June 9, 2008

Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2009

For information, contact the Learning in the Arts staff for the field/discipline below that is most appropriate for your project:

Dance, Music, Opera
brandenburg@arts.gov or 202/682-5044

Literature, Media Arts, Musical Theater, Theater
daughern@arts.gov or 202/682-5521

Folk & Traditional Arts, Presenting (including multidisciplinary projects)
liut@arts.gov or 202/682-5690

Design, Local Arts Agencies, Museums, Visual Arts
beattied@arts.gov or 202/682-5688

Grants for Arts Projects

NOTE: Grants.gov is required for organizations applying to the NEA. Before you can apply, you must be registered with grants.gov. Learn more about grants.gov by visiting our Web site at ***www.arts.gov*** *and register now.*

Access to Artistic Excellence

There are two application deadlines. The types of projects eligible under each vary according to the field/discipline of the project as outlined below. For further information, contact the staff for the appropriate field/discipline or view the NEA Web site at **www.arts.gov.**

Field/Discipline	**Application Deadline: March 10, 2008** Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2009	**Application Deadline: August 11, 2008** Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2009
Dance ***ottlongj@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5739**	Commissions, Regional/National Tours, Home Performances, Presentations, Residencies, Services to the Field	Outreach, Preservation, Media and Technology
Design ***begleys@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5796**	Innovation: Activities that advance, reform, or disseminate the latest design techniques including, among others, competitions, commissions, exhibitions, publications, workshops, and conferences	Stewardship: Activities that protect, share, or celebrate our design heritage including, among others, historic preservation, education and outreach, exhibitions, publications, workshops, and conferences
Folk & Traditional Arts ***mansfieldw@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5678,** ***bergeyb@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5726**	Presentation of Living Cultural Heritage, Touring, Media	Heritage, Preservation, Outreach, Services to the Field, State or Regional Infrastructure Support
Literature ***stollsa@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5771**	Literary Publishing	Audience Development, Professional Development
Local Arts Agencies ***wallsd@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5586**	Services to the Field, Subgranting for Constituent Service Activities, Cultural Planning	Performing Arts Events/Readings/Screenings/ Broadcasts/Visual Arts Exhibitions, Artist Residencies/Commissions, Documentation/Conservation of Public and Monumental Art, Subgranting for Constituent Programming Activities

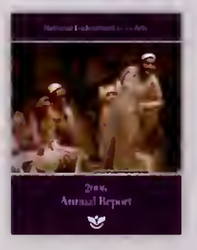
Field/Discipline	**Application Deadline: March 10, 2008** Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2009	**Application Deadline: August 11, 2008** Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2009
Media Arts: Film/Radio/Television ***smithm@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5742**	Exhibition, Film/Video Festivals, Distribution, Preservation	Workshops/Residencies/ Conferences, Facilities Access, Production, Publications, Services to the Field
Museums ***bancroftd@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5576**	Special Exhibitions, Residencies, Commissions, Public Art, Services to the Field	Conservation, Documentation, Collections, Public Programs
Music Organizations with names that begin A through L ***burnsc@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5590** Organizations with names that begin M through Z ***nykyfora@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5487**	Performances, Presentations, Commissions, Residencies, Professional Development, Services to the Field	Domestic Touring, Outreach, Recordings, Preservation, Technology
Musical Theater ***denegree@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5509,** ***lanouxc@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5020**	Creation of New Work, 2008–09 Musical Theater Production	2009-10 Musical Theater Production, Training, Services to the Field
Opera ***paulg@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5600**	ALL Opera Projects	N/A
Presenting ***lims@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5658**	Artist Communities and Residencies, Training for Artists, Creation, Commissioning, Touring, Presentation, Outdoor Festivals and Programs	Services to Artists and Arts Organizations, Preservation, Publications, Activities for Underserved Communities
Theater ***denegree@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5509,** ***lanouxc@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5020**	Creation of New Work, 2008–09 Theater Production	2009–10 Theater Production, Training, Services to the Field
Visual Arts ***clarkw@arts.gov*** **or 202/682-5555**	Exhibitions, Residencies, Publications, Commissions, Public Art	Conservation, Documentation, Services to the Field, Public Programs

PUBLICATIONS

In order to better communicate to the public the exemplary work the NEA supports and provides, the Communications Office works with other agency offices to create publications, free to the public, that highlight successful projects and programs. Additionally, the Office of Research and Analysis issues periodic research reports and briefs on significant topics affecting artists and arts organizations. All of these publications can be ordered (or PDFs of them can be viewed) on the NEA Web site, **www.arts.gov.** A few of our most popular publications are listed below.

General

2006 Annual Report



Presents profiles of some of the outstanding grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2006. Two organizations from every state that have received support from the National Endowment for the Arts are profiled, including photos and descriptions of their projects. In addition, there are features on National Initiatives, State and Regional Partnerships, Lifetime Honors, and Literature Fellowships, and a financial summary for the year.

NEA National Heritage Fellowships: 25th Anniversary

Profiles of many of the NEA National Heritage Fellowship recipients to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the award program. In all, 70 Fellows are profiled, including the eight Bess Lomax Hawes recipients. Also included is the NEA National Heritage Fellowships DVD-ROM.

NEA Jazz Masters

Profiles NEA Jazz Masters from 1982 to 2008 with brief biographies and selected discographies for all 100 honorees. Includes a brief history of NEA's creation of the Jazz Masters program and an overview of the newly expanded program. Also included is an hour-long audio CD of NEA-produced *Jazz Moments*, radio shorts of interviews with NEA Jazz Masters.

American Masterpieces

Provides information on the American Masterpieces initiative, including a brief overview of the program; a list of all the participating organizations in choral music, dance, literature, musical theater, and visual arts; a listing of all the states and cities served by the initiative (including a map of the cities), and a few examples of successful projects.

Shakespeare in American Communities

Provides information on the Shakespeare in American Communities initiative, including a brief overview of the program, a list of all current theater companies participating in the program (as well as a map of the companies), all the cities served, and a few examples of successful productions.

Big Read Catalogue

Provides information on the first 21 books to be featured in the NEA's Big Read initiative, including brief book and author descriptions and information on themes, film adaptations, performance possibilities, and accessibility materials. Information on how to apply to the program is also included.

NEA Literature Fellowships: 40 Years of Supporting American Writers

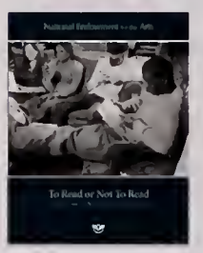
Includes a list of all the writers and translators who have received the award from 1966-2006, as well as a brief history of the fellowship program, sidebars highlighting some of the NEA Literature Fellows, and a section on NEA Literature Fellows who have received other national awards and honors.

Imagine! Introducing Your Child to the Arts

This reprint of the 1997 NEA publication revises and updates the previous edition's material on introducing children to the arts. Made for parents, the publication includes activities and suggestions in literature, dance, music, theater, visual arts, folk arts, and media arts aimed specifically at children ages 3-8 years old. Includes pull-out guide of arts activities.

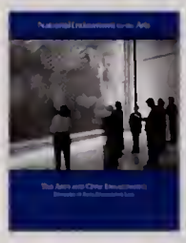
Research

To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence



This report is a new and comprehensive analysis of reading patterns of children, teenagers, and adults in the United States, assembling data on reading trends from more than 40 sources, including federal agencies, universities, foundations, and associations. The compendium expands the investigation of the NEA's landmark 2004 report, *Reading at Risk*, and reveals recent declines in voluntary reading and test scores alike, exposing trends that have severe consequences for American society.

The Arts and Civic Engagement: Involved in Arts, Involved in Life



This research paper explores the compelling link between arts participation and broader civic and community involvement, as measured by the NEA's Survey of Public Participation in the Arts. The report also reveals that young adults show declines in participation rates for most arts and civic categories.

Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America, Executive Summary

An executive summary of the research report that extrapolates and interprets data on literary reading from the literature segment of the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, conducted by the Census Bureau in 2002 at the NEA's request, and comparing the data with results from similar surveys carried out in 1982 and 1992.

How the United States Funds the Arts

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the diverse network of public and private funders that directly and indirectly support the arts in the U.S. It explains the role of the National Endowment for the Arts and other public partners at the federal, state, and local levels as well as that of private partners, such as foundations, corporations, and individuals.

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Additional copies of this publication can be ordered free of charge on the NEA Web site: **www.arts.gov.**

This publication was printed on recycled paper.

Information current as of January 2008.

Front Cover: The University of Michigan's University Dance Company performs Martha Graham's *Primitive Mysteries* as part of the American Masterpieces: Dance college component.
Photo by Peter Smith Photography

Back Cover: Maryland's Cambodian-American Heritage dance students perform as part of a Cambodian New Year celebration with support from an NEA Access to Artistic Excellence grant.
Photo by Tom Pich

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